

Unpacking the 2016 TOK Essay Titles

1. "In gaining knowledge, each area of knowledge uses a network of ways of knowing." Discuss this statement with reference to two areas of knowledge.
2. "Knowledge within a discipline develops according to the principles of natural selection." How useful is this metaphor?
3. "The knower's perspective is essential in the pursuit of knowledge." To what extent do you agree?
4. "Without application in the world, the value of knowledge is greatly diminished." Consider this claim with respect to two areas of knowledge.
5. To what extent do the concepts that we use shape the conclusions that we reach?
6. "In knowledge there is always a trade-off between accuracy and simplicity." Evaluate this statement in relation to two areas of knowledge

Before choosing a Title and writing, we need to "unpack" them. The following is a "how to" guide for writing a TOK Essay. The "unpacking" part is steps 1-6.

- Step 1:* Identify the **command terms** (Evaluate, to what extent agree, discuss) and describe what that term(s) requires you to do!
- Step 2:* Identify **KEY WORDS AND PHRASES**
- Step 3:* Identify **AOKs** present (or choose an AOK to ground discussion within)
- Step 4:* Identify **WOKs** present (or choose WOKs to elucidate discussion)
- Step 5:* What are the **knowledge issues** (in regard to humanity at large as well as the **individual knower**)?
- Step 6:* What **assumptions** are present?
- Step 7:* What stance will you take?
- Step 8:* Examples present in AOKs or WOKs?
- Step 9:* Address Counter Claims
- Step 10:* Address implications for the stance taken.
- Step 11:* Write

The unpacking process must be represented VISUALLY on a printed sheet of A3 (the big one) paper. You will be assigned one Title to unpack. You will "present" at your desk and then we'll post them in the room for others to see.